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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,034	02/13/2002	Hiroyuki Nishimura	37904-0038	7396
28481	7590	01/26/2004	EXAMINER	
TIAJOLOFF & KELLY CHRYSLER BUILDING, 37TH FLOOR 405 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10174			LOPEZ, CARLOS N	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1731		

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/076,034	NISHIMURA ET AL. 	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Carlos Lopez	1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133), even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 11-30 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 11-17 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7/22/02.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 11-17, drawn to method of making a silica quartz glass, classified in class 65, subclass 29.15.
- II. Claims 18-30, drawn to silica quartz glass article, classified in class 501, subclass 53.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process such as hydrogen treatment of a synthetic quart glass at a constant pressure.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Andrew L. Tiajoloff on 1/05/04 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 11-17. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 18-30 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Fujinoki et al (US 6,094,941). Fujinoki discloses a method for manufacturing a synthetic quartz glass for an excimer laser. As recited in claim 1 the method for manufacturing an optical member comprises a heat treatment process for which the last two steps, are deemed as reading on the instant claimed invention. Step 2 of Fujinoki, discloses applicant's claimed incorporation of hydrogen by heat-treating the synthetic quartz glass in a temperature range of 200°C -600°C and at a pressure of at least 10 atmospheres. Step three of Fujinoki provides for making the hydrogen concentration distribution in the glass uniform by holding the glass in an atmosphere of air, inert gas, hydrogen, and a mixture of hydrogen and inert gas. While Fujinoki is silent disclosing any pressure change going from step two to step three, it is inherent or at the least obvious that a pressure change will occur when changing the quartz glass environment from a pure hydrogen atmosphere to a mixed hydrogen and inert gas atmosphere.

Alternatively, as noted by Fujinoki, the heat treatment comprising step three is performed in order to provide a uniform hydrogen concentration on the quartz glass, which is mainly dependent on the temperature at which the quartz glass is heat-treated

(See Col. 13, lines 1-15). As noted by Fujinoki the temperature range of the third step should necessarily be in the range of 500- 800°C. Thus considering the fact that Fujinoki is silent on disclosing the pressure at which the third step is conducted, and in view of Fujinoki's teaching that the main purpose of step three is to homogenize the concentration of the quartz glass for which temperature is the main factor, one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to use any atmospheric pressure. Furthermore, absent any indication on the pressure used by Fujinoki in step three; one of ordinary skill in the art would logically conclude that the pressure of step three is that of standard conditions, hence at 1atm.

As for claim 13, the claimed second predetermined time duration is disclose at column 13, lines 12-13.

As for claim 14-16, the claimed gases are inert gases as taught by Fujinoki.

As for claim 17, the quartz glass is prepared by a flame hydrolysis method (see col. 12, lines 15ff).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. References A-G in PTO-892 have been cited to show the state of the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lopez whose telephone number is 571.272.1193. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571.272.1190. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

CL



PETER CHIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER